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whether they will do it or not, but I do know that if we don't give them authority to do it they can't. And it seems to me that there is a world of difference between making something possible and at least having the hope and the expectation, and if we need to have something more than hopes and expectations I'll be happy to consider that because I think it's an important issue. But why, why would you cut off, in a sense, why would you cut off your nose to spite your face? Why should you not allow something to be possible? Why should you just sit back and say, well, it won't happen even if I allow it, and I'm not contented? That's essentially the message that I think Senator Beutler brings to you--don't allow it; they aren't going to do it anyway. Well, what if they did? Would that hurt anything? I don't think it would hurt a thing and it might be an appropriate resolution, particularly when there isn't any other...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...funding source springing up to meet this need. And I will...and I will again reiterate that I think it is a need, that the programs ought to be continued and, in fact, I think it's very, very important for the state that the programs be continued. But, at the moment, I don't think we have any other choices before us and I don't want to foreclose the opportunity to continue funding even if that funding source is property taxes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Further debate, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the body, I'd like to enter...have a little discussion with Senator Wickersham, if I could, please.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Wickersham, the money you're talking about that you want to include in this, is this dedicated